

Strength in weakness: when the dream dies – Hannah

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Recognize, ultimately I have little control over my life, but I can choose to respond to God – for he is in control.

No one will succeed by strength alone. 1 Samuel 1:9

The Lord gives both death and life; he brings some down to the grave but raises others up...For all the earth is the Lord's, and he has set the world in order. 2 Samuel 2:6,8

Recognize that in my brokenness I can choose to pour out my heart to God – for he understands and loves me

Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the Lord 1 Samuel 1:10

Recognize that to trust God means I choose to surrender my dreams and my life to God – for he wants me to partner with him in advancing his kingdom.

“And she made this vow: “O Lord of Heaven’s Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord,” 1 Samuel 1:11

Recognize that when I acknowledge I am weak, God chooses to pour his strength in, and do far more than I could ever imagine

My heart rejoices in the Lord! The Lord has made me strong. Now I have an answer for my enemies; I rejoice because you rescued me. No one is holy like the Lord! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. 1 Samuel 1:1-2

Each time he [God] said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10